

THROWING THE OOD SECTIONS
OPEN FOR HOMESTEADING.

(Continued from Page Three).

sleeping as it was in order to secure the building of the Hudson Bay Railway. By restricting the application of the pre-emption provision and the purchase and homestead provisions of the area I have mentioned, I do not think anybody will suggest there is any danger of any serious disturbance of either the settlement or financial condition in any respect, and by keeping the pre-emption provision of this bill to that area, we will create a new source of revenue which will provide sufficient money to ensure the construction of a railway to Hudson Bay.

Need of 320 Acre Farm.

In the system of surveys of the Northwest was first introduced, and settlement was far in advance, to the west and north of any other territory in the adjoining United States. In the United States the 160 acre farm had been adopted as a standard in the prairie states of the west that was adopted by us in our western prairie as well. In Ontario a 160 acre farm was the standard, and probably that is the case in the eastern part of the United States; but they did not need more than 80 acres sufficient in the prairie states and they adopted 160 as the standard. The survey of the west was made on the idea that 160 is the proper size for a prairie farm, and the experience of the older settled western states, as well as the experience of the settled portion of our western prairie shows that to be the proper size.

But natural conditions change somewhat as you go further west, and in Ontario and Minnesota, which is a fair-sized farm; but when we get into Nebraska and Dakota the prairie is not so fertile, and the experience of the present day shows that there is one thing true between Canada and the United States in the west, the same natural conditions which require a farm of a large area in the most western portions of the United States operate in our own prairie west. In the state where the 160 acre farm was adopted, there are adequate and regular rainfalls, and it is possible to grow the rich prairie land from year to year without cessation. But as we go westward we have a different condition in the country where the rainfall is not so regular, it was found that the farmer had to crop the land every year, and the result in getting no crop at all during the dry seasons. The different system of farming had to be adopted, and the farmers adopted the method of planting only once a year, and the average size and means should be offered the new settler to acquire such a farm. He cannot acquire it from the railway company, because the railway company is not there; the government is in the hands of the government to day, and the government is the only one who will allow the settler to get the land.

Mr. Heron—Can the new settler enter for homestead and pre-emption at the same time?

Mr. Heron—Then, the land will be pretty well taken up before he is able to get his entry.

Mr. Oliver—I do not think so. I should like to know that we can dispose of 25,000,000 acres in six months when it takes twenty-five years to dispose of 25,000,000.

Mr. Heron—He has to remain in the years before he can get his entry.

Mr. Oliver—No, the new settler who can enter two quarter sections adjoining to suit him under this bill, at his own time, he can enter for a first homestead on one can enter for pre-emption on the other. But he cannot get the patent on the pre-emption until he has resided there six years.

Mr. Oliver—Did I understand the minister to say that the entire land in the dry within the line he has estimated at 25,000,000 acres?

Mr. Oliver—The land that has not been taken by the railway company within that area.

Mr. Oliver—Both odd-numbered and even-numbered sections.

Mr. Oliver—Yes. We believe that by giving this pre-emption privilege to the new settler, we shall thereby make a great deal to attract settlers to that particular part of the country which, up to the present time, has not been attractive to our settlers.

Unless some provision of this kind is made, that part of the country for the reason I have mentioned will not be attractive to the better class of the new settlers we hope to get from south of the line. It is a natural condition which differs from the natural conditions prevailing in other parts of the country and requires a difference in legislation. And I am bound to say this to the House that I have never was a Hudson Bay Railway or a project of a Hudson Bay Railway, I believe it would be necessary—not only right and proper, but necessary—if we look to the future of that part of the country by the best class of new settlers, that we in the House make such provision as is contained in the bill.

Mr. Oliver—The minister has stated that there is no railway in that particular locality. If the country settles up in the manner he suggests by the attraction he is giving by pre-empting the homestead as well as the odd-numbered sections, that we in the House make such provision as is contained in the bill.

Mr. Oliver—I know that some people do—and I know that there are many people in other parts of the country who are either so ignorant or all-but my own friend will not stand up here and say that this is the best way to raise fall wheat. I have seen men sowing winter wheat even in the southern part of the prairie country, in the district that my hon. friend (Mr. Heron) represents, and possibly these men get the crop. But he knows they have no

right to get a crop, sowing their grain at that time of the year. They are depending simply on Providence and on their own judgment or skill. What I say is that, in practice, in the west, the country where the rainfall is uncertain, in order to make a farm successful two acres are as necessary as one acre is where the rainfall is certain.

Will Encourage Settlement.

Now, the need of a farm of 320 acres in our prairie west has been met, and the necessity of the new settler who has homesteaded a quarter section, purchasing the adjoining quarter section of railway land. It is because of the possibility of his doing this that we are going to be able to attract from the United States and large numbers of well-to-do farmers, people who would not be satisfied with a farm of 160 acres, people who have farms on a large scale in Iowa or Minnesota, who sell their lands at big prices and come to our country, not to themselves up to a small patch of land, but to acquire a large area where they can farm at a satisfactory profit. These men were largely attracted to Canada by the fact that they could get a free quarter section, and, adjoining it, they could consider a quarter section of railway land. That fact is a very material element in the settlement of our country so far as it has gone. But, I have said to the House that we had 25,000,000 acres of railway land, and we have disposed of 25,000,000 acres of railway land. The choice of the homesteaders has been very much of the railway company. That is, the railway company chose what he thought was the best part of the country, and, being given the dry prairie to the south and the wooded country to the north, the homesteaders had done the same.

No Railway Lands to Buy.

So, to a great extent, the even-numbered sections in the country of the rail grant lands are settled on by the hands of the railway company, any large influx of settlers, though there still remains some of the land intervening between the odd-numbered sections of the railway land grant, the new settlers must largely go into the prairie of the south or into the wooded country to the north.

Because that we had 25,000,000 acres of the hands of the railway company, they must be restricted to one section unless we alter our policy or policy of dealing with our lands. Now, we believe that we have a very good opportunity to settle in that part of the country. We believe that the conditions there, being such as I have described, a 320-acre farm is one of the average size and means should be offered the new settler to acquire such a farm. He cannot acquire it from the railway company, because the railway company is not there; the government is in the hands of the government to day, and the government is the only one who will allow the settler to get the land.

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same provision, which enables a man to acquire 320 acres within that area, will attract a class of settlers whose efforts will be of great benefit in the development of our country, whom we could not expect to attract to that part of the country or possibly at all, if we did not offer them some such opportunity as we are offering under the provisions of this bill.

Summer Fallow System Successful.

Mr. W. Macdonald—The summer fallow system of farming will make that dry area attractive. Mr. Oliver—So far as the experience has been gained, the summer fallow system of farming and fall wheat growing has been very successful, but there is still an enormous part of this country untried, and I will not say that I am warranted in saying, "all of it will ever be brought under the summer fallow or fall wheat growing." But we have seen such changes in that country in the last few years, and I am not prepared to say to this House that there is any part of it in which I do not think it is probable that it may not turn out that the climate is suitable for the summer fallow system.

Mr. Sam Hughes—Did not the minister say in an order in a Western American company in return for a large grant of land in order to establish an experimental farm to demonstrate that the land could be successfully brought under the summer fallow system as well as by heavy rolling in the fall? I am not sure, but I have had such a proposition. I do not consider it a proposition to draw a line such as "the northwestern section of the country." We cannot say that, as it is any part which cannot be brought under the summer fallow system, but we can attract the right man by offering them a reasonable opportunity. We do not know that any part of that country has not been attractive either to the railway company or to the settler, and my judgment, and I present it with all humility to the House, is that we can provide for 320-acre farms in that country which cannot be expected to be attractive to the most desirable agriculturalists we hope to get from the south of the line.

No Distinction.

Mr. Ames—What proportion of the 25,000,000 acres open to regular homestead entry as even-numbered sections, and what proportion will necessarily be utilized as odd-numbered sections as pre-emption? Mr. Oliver—All the even-numbered sections in that area are open, if they have not been taken, and when the bill passes the odd-numbered sections will be just as open to homestead entry as the even-numbered sections. We are not closing anything off from the country.

Mr. Ames—As I understand it, the even-numbered sections in that 25,000,000 can be entered. It is possible that it may be possible for a homestead entry to be made in an even-numbered section, although not to pre-emption, but a homestead entry to an odd-numbered section is pre-emption in an even-numbered section? Mr. Oliver—Certainly.

Mr. Ames—Then is there to be no distinction whatever?

Mr. Oliver—None whatever.

Mr. Ames—If a settler homesteads, he pays nothing to the government. If he buys on pre-emption he pays \$3 an acre. Consequently, about one-half of the 25,000,000 will be sold at \$3 an acre. Is that to be the manner in which this land will be created?

Mr. Oliver—No.

Mr. Ames—What proportion of the 25,000,000 acres does he calculate will be sold at \$3 an acre to provide for the Hudson Bay Railway land?

As to Second Homesteads.

Mr. Oliver—I have said to that, I have given the new settler the right to take a pre-emption adjoining his homestead. The hon. friend has suggested to the House that there is possibility that the man who goes in for a second homestead will take a pre-emption. He may be, for reasons of his own, satisfied to take only a homestead, and, of course, we will not get anything for our land out of it. But we may frequently encounter cases where the new settler, having a free choice, takes his homestead and then, just as a pre-emption with the result that there is a single quarter-section surrounded by other land, which the surrounding settlers, having exhausted their pre-emption rights, cannot take, and which it is desirable we should be able to dispose of. There is no part of the Hudson Bay Railway. We propose that any settler in the west who has already acquired a patent for a quarter section, who lives either inside or outside the limits of the area covered by the bill, who desires to acquire a second pre-emption, will be in the area on the terms laid down in the bill, shall have the privilege of doing so. There is to say in the bill, inside that part and taking a quarter section, that he will have the same already has a quarter section, he can pick out a quarter section, and by so doing he is utilizing it and putting \$3 an acre, he can get the patent. Mr. Oliver—Precisely; that is to take the homestead quarter section.

Mr. Oliver—He does not have to. We are proposing to offer the original settler in the west in the same chance to dispose of that homestead quarter section in any way as he likes. The main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway runs for 400 miles through that territory. It is because of the conditions I have mentioned that it is so desirable to have the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway in that district.

Mr. Sam Hughes—There are two roads to the north.

Mr. Oliver—There are other roads expected to be constructed across the same area, and we believe with this

same provision, which enables a man to acquire 320 acres within that area, will attract a class of settlers whose efforts will be of great benefit in the development of our country, whom we could not expect to attract to that part of the country or possibly at all, if we did not offer them some such opportunity as we are offering under the provisions of this bill.

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J. H. MORRIS & CO.

270-76 Jasper Ave. East.

Edmonton, Alta.

BIG CLEARING SALE

July 2nd to 15th. Summer Goods Selling at Big Reductions

25 dozen Ladies' Mercerized Mill Waists, embroidered front, open back, six designs, regular 1.25

July Clearing Sale 70c.

15c. DRESSDEN RIBBONS 12 1/2

15 pieces Fancy Dresden Ribbons suitable for sashes, etc., regular 25c.

July Clearing Sale 12 1/2c.

1-4 OFF DRESS MUSLINS

Our large range of dress muslins will be cleared on sale. They comprise plain and fancy organza, cotton voiles, Swiss muslins, Tulle silk, mercerized silk organza, etc.

July Clearing Sale 25 Per Cent. Off

15c. DRESS GINGHAMS 12c.

Fancy dress gingham, in fancy stripes, plaids and checks; also chambray; regular 15c.

July Clearing Sale 12 1/2c.

15c POTTERS' PRINTS 12 1/2c

Potters' famous English prints, absolutely fast color, hand-colored patterns to choose from, regular 15c.

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20% OFF ALL LADIES' WHITEWEAR ON SALE

20 per cent off all ladies' white-weave during our

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20% OFF ALL WHITE WAISTS

From July 2nd to 15th we will give our customers strictly new white waists ranging in price from \$1 to \$8.00 at big reductions.

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SHOWERPROOF COATS ON SALE

Our entire stock of ladies' showerproof coats will be cleared out.

July Sale, 20 Per Cent. Off

\$30.00 BLACK SILK COATS FOR \$24.50

Ladies' black silk coats, nicely made and beautifully trimmed; regular price \$30.00.

July Clearing Sale \$24.50

1-3 OFF LADIES' SUITS

5 only ladies' tailor made suits, well made, silk lining in coat; skirt nicely trimmed and semi-fitted.

July Sale 1-3 Off

25% OFF DRESS SKIRTS

Everything in dress lines will be placed at the

July Clearing Sale 20 Per Cent. Off

SEMI-READY LINEN DRESSES

Ladies' pure linen dress length, semi-ready, hand embroidered; regular \$10.00.

Clearing at \$7.50

10% OFF ALL OTHER SKIRTS

We will sell all our dress skirts at clearing prices.

July Sale, 10 Per Cent. Off

84 BLEACHED SHEETING FOR 25c.

Ladies and children's ready-made and sailor hats, will be cleared out at 20 Per Cent. Off

July Sale 20 Per Cent. Off

MARCELLES BED SPREADS ON SALE

All bed spreads from \$2.50 to \$5 will be cleared out at 10 Per Cent. Off

July White Sale 25 Per Cent. Off

35c. SASH RIBBONS 20c.

9 pieces of Sash Ribbons in dresdens, nice assortment of colorings, regular 35c.

July Clearing Sale 20c.

15% OFF ALL SUNSHADES

All Sunshades will be sold at a reduction.

July Clearing Sale 15% Off.

LINEN TOWELS ON SALE

Many lines of linen towels will be placed on sale at large reductions.

July Clearing Sale, 25 Per Cent. Off

25 dozen Window blinds, good quality, fawn only, regular including brackets, 45c.

July Clearing Sale 25c.

40c. RIBBONS 25c.

10 pieces Wide Dresden Ribbons, good colorings, special value at 40c.

July Clearing Sale 25c.

35c. LACE HOSE 25c.

Lace, tide and embroidered hose in black and colors; regular price 35c and 50c.

July Clearing Sale 25c.

20% OFF KIMONAS

Muslin kimonas in floral patterns and plain white, long and short lengths.

July Sale 20 Per Cent. Off

CHILDREN'S DRESSES ON SALE

Children's and Misses' dresses in white, linen, Swiss muslins, dresdens, gingham, chambray, dresdens, etc., will be sold at our

July Sale 20 Per Cent. Off

CHILDREN'S MUSLIN HATS ON SALE

Muslin hats and sun bonnets and tams must go

July Sale 25 Per Cent. Off

20% OFF STRAW HATS

Ladies and children's ready-made and sailor hats, will be cleared out at 20 Per Cent. Off

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